

MemberUpdate

No. 13 of 21 • 1 August 2021

TOPIC: Grain Trading Standards for 2021/22

DISTRIBUTION: GTA Members – primary contact list. Please circulate to all appropriate internal parties.

1. Issue

GTA Trading Standards to apply for the 2021/22 season as of 1 August 2021 are now available on the GTA website.

2. Industry Submissions

GTA Member Updates [No. 4 of 21](#) and [No. 7 of 21](#) sought feedback from industry on potential changes to Trading Standards (Standards) for the coming 2021/22 season. Feedback was received from a range of industry stakeholders on the proposed changes and a range of other issues.

The GTA Trading Standards Committee (Committee) met in 2021 on several occasions and reviewed feedback from industry. The Committee recommended changes to the GTA Board and the Board has adopted recommendations as appropriate.

All 2021/22 Standards and industry submissions received during 2021 on proposed Standards can be viewed on the GTA website at http://www.graintrade.org.au/commodity_standards.

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3. Agreed Changes for Adoption in 2021/22

Unless otherwise noted below, industry did not object to the list of changes advised in the first and second round calling for industry submissions, as listed below.

3.1 Agreed Change: Visual Recognition Standards Guide – all commodities

Changes have been made for several commodities in the 2021/22 season version of the VRSG, which is now available on the GTA website:

- Revised photographs and wording for various defective grain quality parameters to provide greater clarity and aid industry interpretation.
- Where required these minor wording changes have also occurred in each commodity Standards Booklet to reflect these changes.

Agreed changes are outlined below:

Commodity	Standards Issue	Agreed Outcome
All	Consistent photos	Ensured the germ is facing in the same direction for all commodities i.e., germ facing downwards.
All	Terminology	Ensured all headings list a Contaminant where that is present i.e., Pickled grain, Ergot. All other headings are labelled “Defect”.
Barley	Varietal List (also refer Section 3.4 below)	Updated the list of varieties having a short versus long Rachilla based on varieties advised by Barley Australia.
Barley	Cleaved	Replaced side cleaved picture with a grain showing less endosperm.
Barley	Cleaved	Added a photo of a Hormonal Damaged grain.
Barley	Cleaved	Revised wording to clarify the definition as it applies to the photos to: “Refer to any damage to the grain exposing the white endosperm. Any visible cleaving is considered defective. It includes but is not limited to - • A split along the crease or a split down the back, front or side of the grain exposing the white endosperm. • Grains that are swollen but smaller in size than normal, are sometimes fused in groups of 2 or 3 and are split to reveal the inner endosperm (sometimes identified as hormonal damage)”.
Barley	Severely Damaged	Altered the definition as per the Barley Standards Booklet to provide greater clarity on the various depictions of this defect to: “Severely Damaged inc. Fusarium (except WA) Damage to the grain causing it to become severely discoloured. A grain exhibits one or more of the following characteristics: <u>Burnt / Heat Damaged</u> Heat Damaged or Burnt refers to those kernels that have become discoloured. Affected grains appear dark brown, or in severe cases, blackened. May also appear discoloured under the husk on the kernel. <u>Mould</u> Affected grains appear discoloured and visibly affected by mould. <u>Diseased / Other Serious Visual Defects</u> Refers to those kernels that have become significantly discoloured and / or have a serious visual defect that is not otherwise listed in these Standards. It includes grains affected by Fusarium (except WA). Does not include Field Fungi affected grains, refer to Field Fungi.”
Barley	Severely Damaged	Fusarium photo – removed this photo as it was not considered representative of this defect.
Canola	Broken or Split	Altered wording to reflect the definition in the Standards, by including “Any level of damage is classified as defective”.
Canola	Heat Damaged, Bin Burnt or Badly Damaged	Altered the heading and definition to reflect the terminology used in the Standards, to “Heat Damaged - seeds and pieces of seed that are materially discoloured and damaged by heat. Seeds may have a heated odour or a brown powdery appearance when crushed.”
Canola	Weather Damaged	Altered the definition to reflect the terminology used in the canola Standards to “Weather Damaged seeds are classified under Damaged Seeds. Weather Damaged seeds are those that have been subjected to rain during the maturation phase to the extent that they have become weather damaged. When seeds are crushed, they may have a grey washed out appearance and a chalky texture.”
Canola	Green Seeds	Increased the size of the photos to aid clarity.
Chickpeas, Desi	Bin Burnt and Heat Damaged, Mouldy and Caked	Altered the terminology and definition to the following for consistency across cereals and pulses: a) “Severely Damaged

Commodity	Standards Issue	Agreed Outcome
	– altered heading to “Severely Damaged” and include all these defects in the one section	<p>Damage to the grain causing it to become severely discoloured. A grain exhibits one or more of the following characteristics: <u>Burnt / Heat Damaged</u> Heat Damaged or Burnt refers to those grains that have become severely discoloured. Affected grains appear dark brown, or in severe cases, blackened.</p> <p><u>Mould</u> Affected grains appear discoloured and visibly affected by mould.</p> <p><u>Other Serious Visual Defects</u> Refers to those grains that have become significantly discoloured and / or have a serious visual defect that is not otherwise listed in these Standards.”</p> <p>b) Under the existing Bin Burnt / Heat Damaged photo, include wording of Heat Damaged.</p> <p>c) Under the existing three Mouldy grain photos, include wording of Mould.</p> <p>d) Under the existing sound Mould photo, alter wording to “Sound – refer to Stained and Weather Damaged”.</p>
Chickpeas, Desi	Frost Damaged, Shrivelled and Wrinkled	<p>Altered the heading and definition to reflect Frost may not be the cause and cannot be confirmed in a sample. Remove reference to “Seed coats may tightly adhere to the kernel or be brittle” as it is not needed.</p> <p>New definition is “Shrivelled and Wrinkled - Visible damage to the seed coat or size and shape of grain whereby the grains are severely distorted and/or shrunken. Seed coats may show a level of discolouration depending on the extent of damage. Grains are often smaller than the majority in the sample”.</p>
Chickpeas, Desi	Poor Colour	<p>Replaced the last 3 Poor Colour Kernel photos with photos of grains that are clearer and more appropriately depict this defect on the kernel i.e., less darker photos.</p> <p>Altered terminology to refer to Severely Damaged.</p>
Chickpeas, Desi	Fungal Affected (e.g., Ascochyta)	<p>a) As per the changes to Severely Damaged, revised wording to remove references to Mould.</p> <p>b) Clarified that Fungal Affected is included in Poor Colour.</p> <p>c) Removed reference to “lesions often fluoresce” as this is not always the case.</p> <p>d) Removed “It may also be associated with the presence of fungal growth of various colours” as there is not enough scientific evidence to confirm or refute that all fungal affected lesions fluoresce more than other seed blemishes.</p> <p>Revised definition is now: “Fungal Affected is included in Poor Colour. Lesions are generally visible to the naked eye and appear intense dark brown to black. The lesion may be similar in colour to Severely Damaged or Stained and Weather Damaged. Any lesion of any size is permitted provided it is not also present on the kernel. If the lesion is greater than approximately 20% but does not penetrate to the kernel the grain is classified as Stained and Weather Damaged.”</p>
Chickpeas, Kabuli	Poor Colour – Seed Coat	<p>As per the changes to Severely Damaged, revised wording to remove references to Heat Damaged and Bin Burnt, Mouldy and Caked. New definition is: “Seed coats vary from dark brown to black but may be depicted by other colours. Includes Stained and Weather Damaged. Seed coats may be similar in appearance to various other defects such as Severely Damaged. Where any poor colour is present on the seed coat, it is recommended the kernel also be inspected.”</p>
Chickpeas, Kabuli	Mouldy and Caked – altered heading to Severely Damaged	<p>Altered the terminology and definition to the following for consistency across cereals and pulses:</p> <p>a) “Severely Damaged Damage to the grain causing it to become severely discoloured. A grain exhibits one or more of the following characteristics: <u>Burnt / Heat Damaged</u></p>

Commodity	Standards Issue	Agreed Outcome
		<p>Heat Damaged or Burnt refers to those grains that have become severely discoloured. Affected grains appear dark brown, or in severe cases, blackened.</p> <p><u>Mould</u> Affected grains appear discoloured and visibly affected by mould.</p> <p><u>Other Serious Visual Defects</u> Refers to those grains that have become significantly discoloured and / or have a serious visual defect that is not otherwise listed in these Standards.”</p> <p>b) Under the existing two Mouldy grain photos, included wording of Mould.</p> <p>c) Added a picture of a Sound grain for reference.</p>
Chickpeas, Kabuli	Frost Damaged, Shrivelled and Wrinkled	<p>Altered the heading and definition to reflect Frost may not be the cause and cannot be confirmed in a sample. Removed reference to “Seed coats may tightly adhere to the kernel or be brittle” as it is not needed.</p> <p>New definition is “Shrivelled and Wrinkled - Visible damage to the seed coat or size and shape of grain whereby the grains are severely distorted and/or shrunken. Seed coats may show a level of discolouration depending on the extent of damage. Grains are often smaller than the majority in the sample”.</p>
Faba Beans	Cover page	For clarity added wording “Where applicable, broad beans should be assessed using Faba bean visual images”.
Faba Beans	<p>Bin Burnt and Heat Damaged, Mouldy & Caked – altered heading to Severely Damaged & included all of these defects in the one section</p>	<p>Altered the terminology and definition to the following for consistency across cereals and pulses:</p> <p>a) “Severely Damaged Damage to the grain causing it to become severely discoloured. A grain exhibits one or more of the following characteristics:</p> <p><u>Burnt / Heat Damaged</u> Heat Damaged or Burnt refers to those grains that have become severely discoloured. Affected grains appear dark brown, or in severe cases, blackened.</p> <p><u>Mould</u> Affected grains appear discoloured and visibly affected by mould.</p> <p><u>Other Serious Visual Defects</u> Refers to those grains that have become significantly discoloured and / or have a serious visual defect that is not otherwise listed in these Standards.”</p> <p>b) Replaced photos with more suitable grains depicting this quality parameter.</p> <p>c) Under the existing two Heat Damaged / Burnt grain photos, included wording of Heat Damaged.</p>
Faba Beans	Fungal Affected	<p>a) As per the changes to Severely Damaged, revised wording to remove references to Mould.</p> <p>b) Clarified that Fungal Affected is included in Poor Colour.</p> <p>c) Added a photo to depict a grain that has an entire lesion on the surface of the seed coat (20% coverage), without appearing to or penetrating the kernel.</p> <p>d) Removed reference to “lesions often fluoresce” as this is not always the case.</p> <p>e) Removed “It may also be associated with the presence of fungal growth of various colours” as there is not enough scientific evidence to confirm or refute that all fungal affected lesions fluoresce more than other seed blemishes.</p> <p>New definition is “Fungal Affected is included in Poor Colour. Lesions are generally visible to the naked eye and appear intense dark brown to black. The lesion may be similar in colour to Severely Damaged or Stained and Weather Damaged. A lesion greater than 20% coverage on any one side of the seed coat is considered defective. Any lesion of any size on the kernel is defective.”</p>

Commodity	Standards Issue	Agreed Outcome
Faba Beans	Sprouted	Replaced photo with a grain that more clearly depicts a Sprouted grain.
Faba Beans	Broken, Chipped, Loose Seed Coat and Split	Added the following wording for greater clarity under the definition for Split Seed Coat – “Split may or may not be tightly adhering to the kernel”.
Faba Beans	Frost Damaged, Shrivelled and Wrinkled	a) Altered the heading and definition to reflect Frost may not be the cause and cannot be confirmed in a sample. b) Removed reference to “Seed coats may tightly adhere to the kernel or be brittle” as it is not needed. New definition is “Shrivelled and Wrinkled - Visible damage to the seed coat or size and shape of grain whereby the grains are severely distorted and/or shrunken. Seed coats may show a level of discolouration depending on the extent of damage. Grains are often smaller than the majority in the sample”.
Faba Beans	Frost Damaged, Stained	a) Revised wording in the definition for greater clarity between staining on the Seed Coat and damage to the kernel due to Frost. Revised wording is as follows: “Stained and Weather Damaged Stained and Weather Damaged is included in Poor Colour. A general term used to describe visible damage to the seed coat that may or may not otherwise be defined or be distinguishable from other defects in these Standards. Weather Damage may also lead to a Loose Seed Coat or Shrivelled and Wrinkled. Seed Coat: Visible damage to the seed coat resulting in staining on the seed coat only. Seed coats may be discoloured or altered in size or shape. Kernel: Any damage to the kernel is classified as defective.” b) Altered wording under the photos to reflect the above clarifications.
Faba Beans	Poor Colour	a) As per the changes to Severely Damaged, revised wording to remove references to Heat Damaged and Bin Burnt, Mouldy and Caked. b) Clarified what is included in Poor Colour. New definition is the following “Green is included in Poor Colour. Fungal Affected is included in Poor Colour. Frost Damaged, Stained is included in Poor Colour. Pea Seed Borne Mosaic Virus is included in Poor Colour. Seed coats vary from grey, dark brown to black but may be depicted by other colours. Seed coats may be similar in appearance to various other defects such as Severely Damaged. The photos below depict the minimum requirement of any colour to be classified as defective.”
Faba Beans	Pea Seed Borne Mosaic Virus	To assist to determine what the minimum depiction of this quality parameter is before a grain is classified as defective, removed the first 2 Sound grains.
Lentils, Red	Frost Damaged, Shrivelled and Wrinkled	a) Altered the heading and definition to reflect Frost may not be the cause and cannot be confirmed in a sample. b) Removed reference to “Seed coats may tightly adhere to the kernel or be brittle” as it is not needed. New definition is “Shrivelled and Wrinkled - Visible damage to the seed coat or size and shape of grain whereby the grains are severely distorted and/or shrunken. Seed coats may show a level of discolouration depending on the extent of damage. Grains are often smaller than the majority in the sample”.
Lentils, Red	Bin Burnt and Heat Damaged, Mouldy & Caked – altered heading to Severely Damaged & included all of these defects in the one section	Altered the terminology and definition to the following for consistency across cereals and pulses: a) “Severely Damaged Damage to the grain causing it to become severely discoloured. A grain exhibits one or more of the following characteristics: <u>Burnt / Heat Damaged</u>

Commodity	Standards Issue	Agreed Outcome
		<p>Heat Damaged or Burnt refers to those grains that have become severely discoloured. Affected grains appear dark brown, or in severe cases, blackened.</p> <p><u>Mould</u> Affected grains appear discoloured and visibly affected by mould.</p> <p><u>Other Serious Visual Defects</u> Refers to those grains that have become significantly discoloured and / or have a serious visual defect that is not otherwise listed in these Standards.”</p> <p>b) Under the existing Heat Damaged / Burnt and Mouldy & Caked grain photos, included wording of Heat Damaged / Burnt and Mould.</p>
Lentils, Red	Poor Colour Seed Coat	<p>a) As per the changes to Severely Damaged, revised wording to remove references to Heat Damaged and Bin Burnt, Mouldy and Caked.</p> <p>b) Clarified what is included in Poor Colour. Definition now reads: “Fungal Affected is included in Poor Colour. Stained and Weather Damaged is included in Poor Colour. Seed coats vary from dark brown to black but may be depicted by other colours. Seed coats may be similar in appearance to various other defects such as Severely Damaged. Does not include Contrasting Colour. Where any poor colour is present on the seed coat, it is recommended the kernel also be inspected.”</p>
Lentils, Red	Fungal Affected	<p>a) As per the changes to Severely Damaged, revised wording to remove references to Mould.</p> <p>b) Removed reference to “lesions often fluoresce” as this is not always the case.</p> <p>c) Removed “It may also be associated with the presence of fungal growth of various colours” as there is not enough scientific evidence to confirm or refute that all fungal affected lesions fluoresce more than other seed blemishes. The new definition is “Fungal Affected is included in Poor Colour. Lesions are generally visible to the naked eye and appear intense dark brown to black. The lesion may be similar in colour to Severely Damaged or Stained and Weather Damaged. A lesion greater than 20% coverage on any one side of the seed coat is considered defective. Any lesion of any size on the kernel is defective.”</p>
Lupins, Angustifolius	Broken, Chipped, Loose Seed Coat and Split	To reflect terminology used in Western Australian Standards, altered the definition for Missing Seed Coat to “Missing Seed Coat (Fully De-Coated - WA) - Where the entire Seed Coat is missing but the kernel remains intact”.
Lupins, Angustifolius	Frost Damaged, Shrivelled and Wrinkled	<p>a) Altered the heading and definition to reflect Frost may not be the cause and cannot be confirmed in a sample.</p> <p>b) Removed reference to “Seed coats may tightly adhere to the kernel or be brittle” as it is not needed. New definition is “Shrivelled and Wrinkled - Visible damage to the seed coat or size and shape of grain whereby the grains are severely distorted and/or shrunken. Seed coats may show a level of discolouration depending on the extent of damage. Grains are often smaller than the majority in the sample”.</p>
Lupins, Angustifolius	Poor Colour (Discoloured – WA)	<p>As per the changes to Severely Damaged, revised wording to remove references to Heat Damaged and Bin Burnt, Mouldy and Caked. New definition is: “Seed coats vary from yellow to tan, dark brown to black but may be depicted by other colours. Seed coats may be similar in appearance to various other defects such as Severely Damaged.”</p>
Lupins, Angustifolius	Phomopsis	<p>As per the change to Severely Damaged, removed reference to Mould and Caked. New definition is: “Grains appear sound with a fungal growth readily visible on the seed coat. If kernels are not sound, refer to Severely Damaged”.</p>

Commodity	Standards Issue	Agreed Outcome
Lupins, Angustifolius	Mouldy and Caked – alter heading to Severely Damaged	<p>Altered the terminology and definition to the following for consistency across cereals and pulses:</p> <p>a) “Severely Damaged Damage to the grain causing it to become severely discoloured. A grain exhibits one or more of the following characteristics: <u>Burnt / Heat Damaged</u> Heat Damaged or Burnt refers to those grains that have become severely discoloured. Affected grains appear dark brown, or in severe cases, blackened. <u>Mould</u> Affected grains appear discoloured and visibly affected by mould. <u>Other Serious Visual Defects</u> Refers to those grains that have become significantly discoloured and / or have a serious visual defect that is not otherwise listed in these Standards.”</p> <p>b) Added a photo of Heat Damaged / Burnt defective grain to reflect this defect. Included wording under the photo of Heat Damaged / Burnt.</p> <p>c) Added wording under the photo of Mould.</p> <p>d) Included a sound grain for reference.</p>
Oats	Severely Damaged	<p>Altered the definition as per the Oat Standards Booklet to provide greater clarity on the various depictions of this defect to:</p> <p>“Severely Damaged Damage to the grain causing it to become severely discoloured. A grain exhibits one or more of the following characteristics: <u>Burnt / Heat Damaged</u> Heat Damaged or Burnt refers to those kernels that have become discoloured. Affected grains appear dark brown, or in severe cases, blackened. May also appear discoloured under the husk on the Groat. <u>Mould</u> Affected grains appear discoloured and visibly affected by mould. Note that light Septoria discolouration similar to Mould is not included in the definition of Severely Damaged - refer to Stained Grains. <u>Diseased / Other Serious Visual Defects</u> Refers to those kernels that have become significantly discoloured and / or have a serious visual defect that is not otherwise listed in these Standards. Does not include Field Fungi affected grains, refer to Field Fungi.”</p>
Oats	Field Fungi (Spotted Mould Affected – WA)	<p>a) Added 2 new photos to depict the minimum level of Field Fungi as follows: Dorsal – Field fungi scattered over the husk. Ventral – Field fungi clumped in one location on the husk.</p> <p>b) Altered incorrect wording from “Grains that are soft (that are not classified as Sappy) and/or emit a mouldy odour are to be classified as Severely Damaged” to “Grains that are soft (that are not classified as Sappy) and/or emit a mouldy odour are to be classified as Objectionable Material”.</p> <p>Note this latter change was incorrect wording in the VRSG and Standards booklet – the original intent of the Standards has not altered.</p>
Oats	Stained Grains (Heavily Discoloured-WA) incl. Septoria (Except WA)	<p>a) Altered the definition in the VRSG and Oat Standards Booklet for greater clarity “Septoria is a fungal infection that causes light to dark discolouration on the husk and / or Groat.”</p> <p>b) For greater clarity, removed the following sentence as it is not needed “Light Septoria discolouration similar to Mould is not included in the definition of Severely Damaged”.</p> <p>c) To depict Stained Grains more accurately and to differentiate from Field Fungi, replaced first 2 defective photos with more appropriate grains.</p>
Oats	Stained Groats	<p>Altered the wording under the pictures for consistency with other photos to “Stained – Dorsal” or “Stained – Ventral” or “Stained-Side”.</p>

Commodity	Standards Issue	Agreed Outcome
Peas, Field	Front page	Revised wording and moved pictures to aid interpretation of Parafield field peas (colour and shape) and Kaspa field peas (colour and shape).
Peas, Field	Bin Burnt and Heat Damaged, Mouldy & Caked – altered heading to Severely Damaged & included all of these defects in the one section	Altered the terminology and definition to the following for consistency across cereals and pulses: a) “Severely Damaged Damage to the grain causing it to become severely discoloured. A grain exhibits one or more of the following characteristics: <u>Burnt / Heat Damaged</u> Heat Damaged or Burnt refers to those grains that have become severely discoloured. Affected grains appear dark brown, or in severe cases, blackened. <u>Mould</u> Affected grains appear discoloured and visibly affected by mould. <u>Other Serious Visual Defects</u> Refers to those grains that have become significantly discoloured and / or have a serious visual defect that is not otherwise listed in these Standards.” b) Included wording under the photo of Heat Damaged / Burnt. c) Included wording under the photo of Mould.
Peas, Field	Frost Damaged, Shrivelled and Wrinkled	a) Altered the heading and definition to reflect Frost may not be the cause and cannot be confirmed in a sample. b) Removed reference to “Seed coats may tightly adhere to the kernel or be brittle” as it is not needed. c) Added a new sound and defective photo that shows “golf ball type dimples”. New definition is “Shrivelled and Wrinkled - Visible damage to the seed coat or size and shape of grain whereby the grains are severely distorted and/or shrunken. Seed coats may show a level of discolouration depending on the extent of damage. Grains are often smaller than the majority in the sample”.
Peas, Field	Poor Colour Seed Coat	As per the changes to Severely Damaged, revised wording to remove references to Heat Damaged and Bin Burnt, Mouldy and Caked. The new definition is “Seed coats vary from dark brown to black but may be depicted by other colours. Seed coats may be similar in appearance to various other defects such as Severely Damaged. Where any poor colour is present on the seed coat, it is recommended the kernel also be inspected.”
Peas, Field	Poor Colour Kernel	Removed the following wording as it is not needed “Green is included in Poor Colour”.
Sorghum	Severely Damaged	Replaced the words “severely discoloured” to “significantly discoloured” for consistency with other commodities. The new definition is “Heat damaged / bin burnt, diseased or other serious visual defects. Kernels have become significantly discoloured. Grains appear dark brown or in severe cases, blackened”.
Sorghum	Sprouted	For greater clarity, replaced photo with a more appropriate one showing this defect.
Sorghum	Mould	For greater clarity, replaced photo with a more appropriate one showing this defect.
Wheat	Front Page - Wheat Image	Corrected the spelling of the word “Sheath”. Added images of a white and red grain for comparison purposes.
Wheat	Vitreous Kernels	Replaced last photo with a clearer one depicting a non-vitreous grain on the side. Added wording of “Non-Vitreous” under last 2 grains to clarify they are not vitreous.
Wheat	Stained	a) Replaced both Brush end-Stained grains with clearer photos depicting this defect. b) Added the following wording to the definition to refer to all quality parameters included in this defect “Includes grains that show Streaking anywhere on the surface of the grain, and Brush end-Staining beyond the minimum”.
Wheat	Distorted	To assist interpretation, added a Sound Pinched grain.

Commodity	Standards Issue	Agreed Outcome
Wheat	Severely Damaged	Altered the definition as per the Standards Booklet to provide greater clarity on the various depictions of this defect to: “Severely Damaged Damage to the grain causing it to become severely discoloured. A grain exhibits one or more of the following characteristics: <u>Burnt / Heat Damaged</u> Heat Damaged or Burnt refers to those kernels that have become severely discoloured. Affected grains appear reddish brown, dark brown, or in severe cases, blackened. <u>Mould</u> Affected grains appear discoloured and visibly affected by mould. <u>Diseased / Other Serious Visual Defects</u> Refers to those kernels that have become significantly discoloured and / or have a serious visual defect that is not otherwise listed in these Standards”.
Wheat	White Grain Disorder / Head Scab	Replaced the Mottled grain with a more appropriate Mottled grain.
Wheat	Pickling Compounds / Artificial Colouring (Pickled Wheat-WA)	Altered the page heading to “Contaminants” to reflect this quality parameter is a Contaminant.

3.2 Agreed Change: Minor Wording Changes & Other Issues – all cereal commodities

Minor changes to wording in all relevant Standards charts and Standards booklets will occur. These changes will refer to the latest versions of reference material available to assist industry implementation of Standards, including:

- Visual Recognition Standards Guide for 2021/22.
- The document entitled “Australian Grains Industry Post Harvest Chemical Usage Recommendations and Outturn Tolerances 2021/22” (see <http://www.graintrade.org.au/nwpgp>).

3.3 Agreed Change: SFS & Type 7b Weed Seed Wording – all commodities

A request was received from industry to further clarify the wording in all Standards (specifically in relation to pulses) regarding the distinction between Small Foreign Seeds (SFS) and Type 7b weed seeds. The Committee agreed further clarification was required, without altering the intent of the definitions that apply. In summary, depending on the commodity and weed seed Type, the following applies:

- Small Foreign Seeds (SFS)
 - Are those seeds that fall below the screen following shaking.
 - If any seeds are referenced elsewhere in the Standards, even if they fall below the screen, they are not classified as SFS.
 - A list of the more common SFS is included in each Standard. That list is not inclusive of all SFS.
- Type 7b Weed Seeds
 - Are generally those not listed in the Standards, that remain above the screen following shaking.
 - There may be Type 7b Weed Seeds (i.e., immature) that are small that fall below the screen. These are not classified as SFS but are classified as Type 7b Weed Seeds.
 - As noted above, there may be weeds that are classified as SFS (that are not listed in the SFS table), that are not to be classified as Type 7b Weed Seeds.

It was therefore agreed to alter all references in the Cereal Standards (definitions, wording on quality charts, procedures) where required to provide greater clarity and to reflect the above intention of the definitions as currently applied. In addition, the Committee requested these changes also be made to pulses for consistency across commodities.

3.4 Agreed Change: Varietal Master List – Wheat, Barley, Oats

As in previous seasons, the Varietal Master List for the above commodities has been revised following receipt of the changes from the industry sectors responsible for maintenance of those lists.

Industry should note that as per a revised procedure with Wheat Quality Australia (WQA) whereby the updated varietal list is provided by WQA by 31 July, the Wheat Varietal Master List as listed in the Wheat Standards booklet for 2021/22 is now final.

3.5 Agreed Change: Stained Groats – Oats

A submission was received from industry requesting clarification in the procedure for the amount of Stained Groats to be tested for that quality parameter. The Committee has revised wording in the Oat Standards Booklet to clarify that no minimum number of grains exists, it is the responsibility of industry when applying the Standards to determine how they will be applied in each situation.

The Committee will further consider this decision in future reviews of the Oats Standards.

4. Issues for Future Consideration

4.1 Further Research: Defect Tolerances SFW1 & SFWR – Wheat

As advised in 2020, several defective grain quality parameters in the SFW1 Standard were proposed to be altered (loosened) given that many of these quality parameters currently have limits closely aligned to milling grades. However, SFW1 is used as a stockfeed grade.

It was noted that some sectors of industry apply variations as per the tolerances as requested to be altered based on seasonal conditions.

In the first-round consultation paper, the Committee advised industry of its intention to implement the following changes for the 2021/22 season:

Quality Parameter	Prior SFW1 tolerance - 2020/21	Proposed SFW1 tolerance - 2021/22
Stained	15% by count	50% by count
Field Fungi	10 grains per half litre	40 grains per half litre
Dry Green or Sappy	10% by count	Unlimited
Severely Damaged	1 grain per half litre	5 grains per half litre
Insect Damaged	2% by count	4% by count
Over-dried Damaged	Nil	Unlimited

Industry feedback received indicated some concerns with those changes for SFW1 being implemented in the 2021/22 Standards. As a consequence of industry feedback, **those changes will not occur in 2021/22**. A Working Group has been formed to consider all industry feedback received and the outcome will be advised to industry for review in due course.

That Working Group will also consider potential changes to SFWR which were proposed in line with the changes to SFW1.

4.2 Future Review: ANW2 – Wheat

As advised to industry in 2020, following discussion of the various issues related to this subject, including the high levels of Dockage in noodle wheat and APWN detected by some customers, the Committee agreed to the following:

- To review the current quality parameters within Australian wheat milling grades that make up Dockage and determine if more appropriate measurements should be considered (i.e., a specific Dockage test).
- To review the various factors and processes along the supply chain that influence the quality of grain outturned related to Dockage.
- To seek further information on the legitimacy of the claim relating to Dockage levels of Australian milling wheat.
- To consider all other relevant issues.
- To undertake a trial to address the customer concerns, with the assistance of an industry Bulk Handling Company.

The Working Group formed to address the topic has met. Following receipt of trial data, the Working Group will consider options to address the various issues and industry will be advised of the findings and recommendations of the Committee in due course.

4.3 Further Review: Non-Industry Classified Varieties – all commodities

In 2020 the Committee was requested to develop a GTA grade for a wheat variety that did not require the usual classification for wheat varieties (by Wheat Quality Australia (WQA)). The request arose because the variety was bred for a specific purpose outside of the normal use of milling/feed wheats in Australia. While WQA initially agreed it did not need to consider that variety, the Committee could not agree on development of a new grade as the procedures and charter of the GTA Standards Committee did not cover such a situation.

At the time, the Committee advised the industry party it would develop a procedure and provide that to industry for future reference and use. The Committee is currently reviewing its charter and developing a procedure to cover the above event, for wheat and all other commodities. Once developed it will be released to industry for comment. WQA are also reconsidering how it processes requests for classification of specific purpose varieties.

4.4 Further Review: Moisture Content - Maize

A submission was received from industry seeking a reduction in the maximum moisture content for maize from 14% to 13%. Several reasons for the proposed change were advised, including the risk of quality deterioration during storage over the period required to store maize.

The Committee reviewed the submission but has sought further advice on the impact on all maize industry sectors. Following review of that feedback the Committee will make their recommendations known to industry for further input in developing the 2022/23 Standards. In the interim, there is no change for the 2021/22 season.

4.5 Further Review: Contaminant Levels – Millrun Standards

A submission was received seeking a change in the Foreign Material contamination levels in Millrun Standards. The submission requested a nil tolerance to be applied as per the Standards that were applied in 2015/16. The Committee is considering the submission and seeking further information from industry sectors involved in Millrun production and use.

Following review of that feedback the Committee will make their recommendations known to industry for further input in developing the 2022/23 Standards. In the interim, there is no change for the 2021/22 season.

4.6 Further Review: Sand, Soil, Earth – All Cereals

A submission was received from industry seeking a review of the method of assessment of Sand, Soil and Earth from the current count per half litre to a weight basis. That change would more closely correlate to the tolerance applied at export, that is, measured on a weight basis by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

The Committee agreed a review was warranted and will conduct research to determine a potential solution. Depending on the outcome, the Committee considered that for consistency, any change in assessment methodology should be applied across all commodities.

4.7 Further Review: Nil Tolerance Eucalyptus spp. – All Cereals

The Committee had previously advised industry of a review of various Nil Tolerance parameters in the Standards, and the practicality of meeting that tolerance. As part of that activity, the Committee has made changes to Standards in previous seasons.

The Committee has further considered the remaining Nil Tolerance parameters and is reviewing a potential change to the contamination of grain with *Eucalyptus spp.* (gumnuts). Following completion of that review industry will be advised of its findings and any recommendations.

4.8 Further Research: Vacuum Sampling of Road Trucks – All Commodities

Industry was advised of a proposal raised in 2018 to review the current use of vacuum probes to obtain a representative sample for the purposes of applying Trading Standards. It was agreed this project should be managed as a whole of industry review. GTA through GTA's Standards Committee offered to facilitate the project on behalf of industry, as it relates to the application of Standards.

The project development phase has continued with the drafting and agreement of Principles that the project will cover. These Principles continue to be considered with a potential sponsor for the project.

4.9 Further Research: Foreign Material – All Cereals

Industry had previously been advised of research that had commenced on ensuring clarity and consistency across commodities of the definition and method of assessment of Foreign Material (FM). Areas of that research focussed on matters such as:

- The current lack of consistency in FM definitions in all cereals leads to sampler confusion, leading to potentially incorrect sample classification.
- A desire for consistency in Standards - definitions etc.
- There is not a FM definition for some cereals, again causing wider industry confusion.
- A FM definition and tolerance applies on outturn for some commodities, but there is no clear or consistent industry definition. Hence variations apply, leading to potential differences in market and customer interpretation.
- Current Trading Standards applied at receipt do not give sufficient information on total FM levels in grain.
- A separate FM category is required in Trading Standards as there is no suitable other category to capture FM in all commodities.
- The risk of outturning grain over FM contractual levels is sometimes high, especially where the major FM contaminants are larger weed seeds.
- For outturn, BHCs and/or marketers need to assess FM to determine suitability for a customer, leading to increased costs and other logistical difficulties.

Since initiating the review the Committee has identified the need to consider the following when developing recommendations. These issues were provided to industry as part of the consultation on 2020/21 Standards:

- Increased time for sample assessment of the FM content.
- Whether there are other implications and should the FM test be made a "mandatory" versus "voluntary" test.
- Extensive industry consultation is needed to reach agreement on FM definitions & levels to apply by commodity.
- Extensive discussions with traders and buyers (domestic/export) to explain all changes and reasons is required.
- The impacts of the change need to be considered across all States of Australia, for all 'end-use' of all cereals.
- Industry views on the desire of the Committee to include the change across all Committees given some commodity sectors may not desire such a change.
- Potential impacts of the change on all non-cereal commodities.

The Committee has reviewed industry feedback on the topic and will further develop recommendations for industry consideration in the latter half of 2021.